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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol. 131, No. 50

Low scores on the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) in the Van Buren Public Schools district were discussed at the recent school board meeting.

See page 3.

THE CANTON EAGLE

Vol. 69, No. 50

The sentencing of two Livonia residents to prison for supplying the drugs that killed a Canton Township man have brought a measure of peace to his mother.

See page 3.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR

Vol. 69, No. 50

One hundred families in Inkster will have a brighter holiday again this year, thanks to the efforts of the Basketball Legends of Inkster.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE

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A concept plan for a proposed development at Five Mile and Beck roads was approved by members of the Northville Township Board of Trustees last week.

See page 2.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE

Vol. 16, No. 50

Members of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees were expected to approve the finalized audit due June 30 at the regular meeting Tuesday.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 131, No. 50

Romulus Memorial Cemetery will be part of the national Say Their Names project this Saturday, an effort to remember veterans who are interred in the city.

See page 5.

THE WAYNE EAGLE

Vol. 69, No. 50

A new "state of the art" storage facility will be constructed in Wayne on a 3.2 acre parcel of city-owned land just east of the current police station on Michigan Avenue.

See page 4.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE

Vol. 69, No. 50

A single suspect is being sought by police and thought to be responsible for several store robberies in the Westland area during the past weeks.

See page 4.

Wayne reduces retiree health benefits

Healthcare benefits for about 250 city retirees have been decimated by Wayne officials who approved the payment of individual "stipends" rather than the current retirement health care premiums paid directly to the insurance provider.

Currently, the city pays 70 percent of retirees' health insurance premiums to Priority Health. That will end in January when the stipend plan becomes effective. The new plan, according to officials, will save the cash-strapped community about $805,065 annually. The city continues to fight a budget deficit of more than $1.5 million and has been informed by financial auditors that Wayne will run out of money at the end of next year.

The 4-3 vote during the meeting last week effectively voided the retirement agreements with employees from the fire, police, DPW, clerical and even administrative departments. Retirees are expected to use the stipend to purchase health insurance individually, a measure which several retirees at the meeting reminded officials was a violation of their negotiated union contracts.

> *We are not going into bankruptcy, we aren't getting a financial manager. The state says we are not broke enough so we have to keep making cuts.*

Under the newly-adopted plan, retirees 65 and older will receive $110 per month to pay for health insurance while those younger than 65 and single, will receive $175 monthly. Couples will be allocated $400 for health insurance and a family will receive $485.

Tempers and emotions ran high at the meeting during which several retirees expressed their criticism of the plan. Former Fire Chief Mel Moore told the officials that this action showed no consideration for the contract he signed with the city and asked Mayor Susan Rowe what plans are in place if it is impossible to find health care premiums at the stipend amount.

Rowe responded that there would be "people" at city hall to offer advice and direction to the retirees for finding plans in the open market.

"You are reaching a decision affecting my life," Moore said.

"We are making a decision to keep the doors of the City of Wayne open," responded Rowe.

"We have been assured you will find health care," Rowe said. "We are not going into bankruptcy, we aren't getting a financial manager. The state says we are not broke enough so we have to keep making cuts."

Union President Tim Reynolds told the council members and officials that they had disgraced the city "and everybody who wore the uniform and all those who sat in those seats

See **Stipend,** page 4

Extended holiday

Annual Ice Festival follows celebration of New Year

The holiday season has been extended into the New Year in downtown Plymouth as plans for the 35th Annual Ice Festival Jan. 6-8 are well under way.

James Geitzen, president of JAG Entertainment, the company that organizes the event each year, spoke to members of the noon Plymouth Rotary Club last week, reminding them that the Ice Festival will closely follow the New Year's Day celebration in 2017. More than 100,000 people have visited the event in years past, he said, and this year with the help of corporate sponsors like Ford Motor Co., Genysis Credit Union, Blue Care Network, Fox 2 News and 93.9 The River, the festival will include even more attractions.

"This is an important event for downtown Plymouth," he said. "This brings people into businesses during these winter months which can be slow. Many times it is these customers that help keep merchants going until spring," he added.

This year's event will bring back fan-favorite activities like the Ice Playground, Fire and Ice Towers and the Dueling Chain Saws Competition. New attractions include the Winter Wonderland Michigan Market and horse-drawn carriages.

This year, small Michigan merchants from throughout the state will be displaying their unique goods and wearables to festival attendees at a market on Forest Avenue between Ann Arbor Trail and Wing Street.

Geitzen told the Rotary Club members that all the favorite attractions would return, including the cutting of the ice ribbon, officially opening the event on Friday night in Kellogg Park. Opening ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. immediately followed by a live ice-carving demonstration sponsored by IHA. Once the live ice carving is completed, there will be music with the IHA entertainment DJ that night and again on Saturday evening.

"And the Fire and Ice Towers will be back. These are chimneys we build of ice, fill with wood and burn on Friday and Saturday night," he said.

The annual Collegiate Ice Carving Competition presented by Genysis Credit Union is a tradition at the event, Geitzen said and this year there will be two carving competitions for various Michigan colleges and universities.

"Many folks don't realize that these students are in the culinary arts program and many ice carvers are chefs.

Photos by David Willett

Having the ability to produce these beautiful ice carvings sets these students apart and often helps them get a job," he said.

He said another real benefit of the festival is getting children out of the house and into physical activity, something that isn't easy during the winter months.

"Again this year, families can enjoy learning how to ski together at the Blue Care Network Cross-Country Skiing Zone presented by Sun and

James Geitzen

See **Ice,** page 6

Service remembers Trustee Marvin Gans

The legacy of Marvin Gans can be found throughout the Northville community.

Through more than three decades on the Northville Township Planning Commission, more than 20 years as a township trustee and through organizations like the Friends of Northville Parks and Recreation, Mr. Gans was a tireless advocate who worked to improve his community.

"Marv spent decades working for us and representing the community in every sense of the word," said Township Treasurer Marjorie Banner, who served with him for 16 years.

> *Marv spent decades working for us and representing the community in every sense of the word.*

Mr. Gans passed away Dec. 2 at the age of 84. More than 200 friends and elected officials joined his family Saturday to celebrate his life, achievements and many positive things he left behind.

Born in New York City, Mr. Gans earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Hunter College, then a Master's Degree in Physical Education and Administration from the University of Michigan. He studied abroad on a Fulbright Teacher Exchange before earning a Ph. D in Physical Education and Recreational Administration and Facility Design from the University of Utah.

He served as the director of athletics at Schoolcraft College and, later, assistant dean of Arts and Sciences and assistant dean of continuing education services before his retirement in 2003.

He essentially constructed the athletic program at the college from nothing. He designed the facilities that are still in use

See **Gans,** page 2

Northville

Christmas wishes

Santa and his elves will be visiting with children at Maybury Farm from noon until 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17 and 18. Santa will be waiting to meet with children of all ages on his antique sleigh in the Maybury Farm Welcome Center. Santa's elves have decked the halls of the Welcome Center with all kinds of Christmas cheer and the fire in the wood stove will keep everyone toasty and warm. Children can bring their wish list and sit with Santa on his sleigh while parents and grandparents take photos. The Welcome Center shelves will be stocked with gifts including Maybury Farm honey, jams, jellies, popcorn and more. Admission is just a smile and a small donation used to help to care for the animals at Maybury Farm throughout the winter months. Maybury Farm is located at 50165 Eight Mile Road, between Beck and Napier roads (do not enter at the State Park). Parking is free. For more information, visit www.northvillecommunityfoundation.org, call (248)374-0200, or find Maybury Farm on Facebook.

Former prison site gets OK for major development

A concept plan for a proposed development at Five Mile and Beck roads was approved by members of the Northville Township Board of Trustees last week.

The latest plan will include housing, retail shops, a movie theater, a grocery store and public spaces as presented by representatives from the developer, Redico of Southfield.

The original plan for the area included a Meijer store, but after public opposition to that plan, the developer offered a plan with varied housing to be developed by Pinnacle Homes, and without a major anchor store.

The development to be called Village at Northville is planned for the former Scott Prison property on the northwest corner of Beck and Five Mile roads, next to Northville Township park. The plan now includes 111 single-family lots; 66 town homes and 190 lofts, some designed as work-live units. The minimum 6,000 square-foot lots are somewhat smaller than typical Northville properties but were described as "fairly typical of an urban development."

As part of the approval, the developer will be required to build the single family homes at a maximum of 3,400 square feet. The town homes will include one or two car garages and there will be four to eight units per building. The development will include 92,000 square feet of retail space and a central residential common area described as a 1.35-acre landscaped urban park.Approval of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the site will allow Supervisor Bob Nix and Clerk Sue Hillebrand to finalize the agreement, although the PUD allows flexibility of design of the development.

The township bought the property from the state of Michigan for $1 in 2012 on the condition that it be sold for development by Dec. 30 or used for a public purpose.

Proceeds from the sale are earmarked to fund the demolition and environmental cleanup at the defunct Northville Psychiatric Hospital on Seven Mile Road, which the township owns. About 40 per cent of the sale costs will go to the state, township officials said.

Gans

FROM PAGE 1

today, and consulted on design projects at the University of Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Baghdad.

He was continually reaching out, too, said Jack Washka, a long-time friend and colleague at Schoolcraft. Mr. Gans hosted the international junior Olympic teams from China, Yugoslavia and Russia and also watched as former Olympic swimmer Mark Spitz set a record in the college pool. He was a great supporter of his staff and the college, Washka said.

"Dr. Gans was the greatest visionary I've ever known," he said. "All he ever did was for others. He was the most unselfish and giving type of person. All those of us he touched, he made better in some way."

Mr. Gans served on the township planning commission for nearly 30 years, always pushing developers to bring amenities to the township, to upgrade their own plans and to be conscientious neighbors. He was elected to the township board six times-including this November-and served on important committees overseeing land acquisition and more.

Perhaps his greatest legacy is in the area of parks and recreation. Mr. Gans worked to secure additional parkland and athletic facilities, having an impact at nearly every park within the township and many in the City of Northville, too. In 1992, he co-founded the Friends of Northville Parks and Recreation-affectionately referred to in the community as 'the Friends of Marv"-in order to generate funds to resurface the tennis courts at Fish Hatchery Park. That effort, which brought the first Friends auction to the community, was successful and the Friends went on to generate more than $1 million that was donated back to the communities in the form of soccer fields, walking paths, playscapes and much more.

Marvin Gans

"Marv was always the quarterback; he made things happen," said David Jerome, a Northville attorney who worked with Mr. Gans on a number of projects. "He could pull strings, he could be tenacious-but you always knew that he was in it for the betterment of the community. He was a great citizen. The funds that were raised have done marvelous, marvelous things."

His most recent passion was Thayer's Corner Nature Area. He and Banner co-founded the Friends of Thayer's Corner Nature Area in 2005 to transform it into a unique park with a restored historic barn, picnic area, community gardens and peaceful walking trails.

"Marv set the example of what being a community servant is all about," Banner said. "He made us all better people. He taught me and so many others the importance of giving of ourselves."

He is survived his wife of 60 years, Erica 'Rikki'; sons, Russell and Derek; daughter, Jenny, and four grandsons.

The family is asking memorial contributions be dedicated to the Marv Gans Legacy, Friends of Thayer's Corner Nature Area, 41726 Pon Meadow, Northville, MI 48168.

MINUTES OF REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 28, 2016

Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd. Romulus, MI 48174

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem John Barden.
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Present: Kathleen Abdo, John Barden, Linda Choate, Harry Crout, Sylvia Makowski.
Excused: Celeste Roscoe, William Wadsworth.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
LeRoy D. Burcroff
Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk

1. Moved by **Crout,** seconded by **Makowski** to accept the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-465 **2A.** Moved by **Abdo**, seconded by **Crout** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 14, 2016. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes** – Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout. **Nays** – None. **Abstain** – Makowski (absent). **Motion Carried**.
16-466 **2B.** Moved by **Abdo**, seconded by **Crout** to approve the minutes of the special meetings of the Romulus City Council held on November 14, 2016: 5:15 p.m. closed session, pending union/legal matters; 5:45 p.m. study session, City Quarterly Investments Report; 6:15 p.m. study session, City Purchasing Ordinance; 6:30 p.m. closed session, attorney opinion. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes** – Abdo, Barden, Choate, Crout. **Nays** – None. **Abstain** – Makowski (absent) **Motion Carried**.
3. Petitioner: None.
4. Chairperson's Report:
16-467 **4A.** Moved by **Crout**, seconded by **Makowski** to recognize the 75th wedding anniversary of Harvey and Betty Rhodes. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-468 **4B.** Moved by **Makowski**, seconded by **Crout** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Arthur Parker **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-469 **4C.** Moved by **Makowski**, seconded by **Crout** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Glenn Andersen. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
4. Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Choate** to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
5. Mayor's Report:
Jazmine Danci, Community Services Director, gave an update on upcoming City events.
16-470 **5A1.** Moved by **Crout,** seconded by **Makowski** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Bill Gibson. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-471 **5A.** Moved by **Makowksi,** seconded by **Abdo** to concur with the administration and approve the proposed Sub-recipient Agreement between the City of Romulus and Wayne County for the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant Funds. Term December 1, 2016 through December 30, 2021. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-472 **5B.** Moved by **Crout,** seconded by **Makowski** to concur with the administration and authorize the closure of Hunt Street between Goddard Road and Bibbins Street, beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2, 2016 and ending at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, December 2, 2016 for the Christmas Tree Lighting in the Historical Park. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-473 **5C1.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Abdo** to concur with the administration and allow the mayor and clerk to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding – which is an agreement with Dearborn Heights Fire Department, who is submitting a grant application on behalf of twelve (12) fire departments in Western Wayne County for Blue Card Incident Management System Training. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-474 **5C2.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Abdo** to concur with the administration and authorizeKevin Krause, Deputy Fire Chief, as the representative for requesting funding and agreeing to the provisions of a grant on behalf of the City of Romulus Fire Department as stipulated in the Memo of Understanding regarding the Regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant Application. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-475 **5D.** Moved by **Abdo,** seconded by **Choate** to concur with the administration and authorize renewal of the Michigan Municipal League membership dues for January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 in the amount of $7,088.00. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-476 **5E.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Crout** to concur with the administration and approve the reappointment of William Crova to the (Employee) Health Care Plan and Trust Committee with a term to expire on November 29, 2018. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-477 **5F.** Moved by **Crout,** seconded by **Makowski** to concur with the administration and approve the contract between the George Auch Company and the City of Romulus for the construction management services for the construction of a new 34th District Court. The cost of the pre-construction services are $20,800. The cost of general conditions with reimbursables will be $367,472 and a construction management fee of 1.95 percent of the project costs. Discussion: Tim Keyes, Economic Development Director explained reimbursables. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-478 **5G.** Moved by **Crout,** seconded by **Makowski** to concur with the administration award Bid ITB 16/17-05 and allow the mayor and clerk to enter into a contract with Partners in Architecture for the initial phase (predesign thru schematic phase) of the 34th District Court Project at a cost of $38,500, contingent upon the approval of the contract language by the City's Corporate Counsel, Stephen J. Hitchcock. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-479 **5H.** Moved by **Choate,** seconded by **Crout** to concur with the administration and award Bid ITB 16/17-08 to the overall lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Associated Newspapers of Michigan, for the printing and publication of official notices and to establish the City's official newspaper for 2017. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-480 **5I.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Abdo** to concur with the administration and award Bid ITB 16/17-09 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Holden Industries, for the acquisition of a $30,000 capacity easy loader trailer and options for the DPW in the amount of $19,160.00. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-481 **5J.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Choate** to concur with the administration and award Bid ITB 16/17-10 to the only bidder, Jam Best One Fleet Service, for two years for the purchase of tires on an as-needed basis. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-482 **5K.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Crout** to concur with the administration and award Bid ITB 16/17-11 to the lowest bidder, Teddy's Lawn & Landscaping, LLC in the amount of $14,500 for snow removal and ice management for the 2016/2017 season for the Romulus Athletic Center. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-483 **5L.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Crout** to recognize a transfer out from General Fund to the 34th District Court Construction fund to cover the costs for invoices to Orchard Hiltz and McCliment associated with work completed through June 30, 2016.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditures:				
101-966-999.401	Transfer Out - General Fund	-	305,293.00	305,293.00
Fund Balance				
101-000-393.401	Assigned Fund Balance	305,293.00	(305,293.00)	-
34th District Court - Building Fund				
Revenues				
401-000-699.101	Transfer in - General Fund	-	305,293.00	305,293.00
Expenditures:				
401-000-980.000	Project Costs	-	305,293.00	305,293.00

To recognize a transfer out from General Fund to the 34th District Court Construction Fund to cover the costs for invoices to Orchard Hiltz and McCliment associated with work completed through June 30, 2016
Motion Carried Unanimously.
16-484 **5M.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Choate** to amend the FY 16/17 Budget to account for the contract for Architectural and Construction Management Services as recommended by the Economic and Community Development Director.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
34th District Court - Building Fund				
Expenditures:				
401-000-980.000	Project Costs	305,293.00	60,000.00	365,293.00
Fund Balance				
401-000-390.000	Fund Balance	352,231.06	(60,000.00)	292,231.06

To amend the FY 16/17 Budget to account for the contract for Architectural and Construction Management Services as recommended by the Economic and Community Development Director. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
16-485 **5N.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Choate** to amend FY 16/17 budgeted expenditures for additional costs incurred for the November 2016 General Election.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund				
Expenditures:				
101-262-729.000	Election Supplies	35,150.00	5,663.00	40,813.00
101-262-818.000	Contractual Services	28,000.00	4,200.00	32,200.00
Fund Balance				
101-000-390.000	Unassigned - Fund Balance	3,634,563.58	(9,863.00)	3,624,700.58

To amend FY 16/17 budgeted expenditures for additional costs incurred for the November 21016 General Election. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
6A. Clerk's Report:
16-486 **6A1.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Abdo** to approve second reading, final adoption to amend the City Purchasing Ordinance and to add two new sections – Section 39-14, Local Preference Provisions and Section 39-15, Insurance Coverages. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
6B. Treasurer's Report:
16-487 **6B1.** Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Crout** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Arthur Theodore Gorgon.
7. Public Comment:
A gentleman presented himself as a business owner, educator, and physician who is interested in putting a medical marijuana facility together with a group of other physicians. He is asking the City to adopt ordinances to implement medical marijuana facilities. Jan Lemmon, Chairperson, Cemetery Board of Trustees, gave a reminder of the December 2, 2016 spaghetti fund-raiser dinner to be held at the VFW Hall. Gina Steward, editor of The Telegram Newspaper, asked if the 34th District Court budget amendment (approved this evening) was derived from fines collected at the court.
8. Unfinished Business:
Mayor Burcroff responded to Gina Steward's question regarding the court budget amendment (yes, the funds were derived from court fines.)
9. New Business
10. Communication:
Councilwoman Makowski announced upcoming events to be held at the Romulus Library.
16-488 **11.** Moved by **Choate,** seconded by **Crout** to pay Warrant 16-22 in the amount of $2,110,506.17. **Motion Carried Unanimously**.
12. Moved by **Makowski,** seconded by **Abdo** to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 28, 2016.

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BELLEVILLE - CANTON - PLYMOUTH

$1.1 million located, delayed audit ready

Members of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees were expected to approve the finalized audit due June 30 at the regular meeting Tuesday.

According to Treasurer Mark Clinton, auditors from Plante-Moran have now completed the audit after receiving the final piece of information regarding the whereabouts of $1.1 million. That money is now in the correct account and the financial accounts are balanced, Clinton said.

"I don't anticipate any problems," Clinton said of the expected vote on the audit. "I think it is well finalized." Clinton said, too, that there had been a great deal of discussion about the audit at a work session two weeks ago and that the newly-elected board had opted to continue scheduling these work sessions where issues could be openly discussed at length and questions resolved prior to the official meetings where votes are taken.

He stressed that these sessions are open to the public to ensure transparency.

Clinton said that finding the $1.1 million required some serious effort on the part of the staff, and he particularly singled out Cindy Kushner whom, he said, "did the heavy lifting" in pouring through the numerous bank accounts to reconcile the balances.

> *"This isn't a one-man job. The office of the treasurer and the clerk have to be in perfect sync with these records and financial balances."*

The 6-month delay in filing the audit prompted the Michigan Department of Treasury to withhold $24,285 in state shared revenue payments to the township, a situation that Clinton said should now be reversed.

"We should be fine going forward," he said.

The problems were evident in November when auditors from Plante-Moran were still attempting to reconcile a general checking account from 2015, data necessary to complete the audit.

Clinton said that he felt that former Treasurer Ron Edwards "simply ran out of time" in his attempts to reconcile the accounts and leave the records "in good order."

"This isn't a one-man job. The office of the treasurer and the clerk have to be in perfect sync with these records and financial balances," Clinton said. "I think we can achieve that going forward."

Martin Olejnik, a partner in Plante Moran said preparation of the state-mandated township audit 6-months late presented exceptional difficulties.

"It was a tough process," he said. "It was a lot tougher than I'm used to, to be honest," Olejnik said.

Clinton said that he did not expect to face these problems in June, 2017 when the next state audit is due.

"I think we are on the right track now," he said.

Grieving mother praises efforts of police

The sentencing of two Livonia residents to prison for supplying the drugs that killed a Canton Township man have brought a measure of peace to his mother.

Terri Young, the mother of 34-year-old Andrew Kocoloski, expressed her gratitude for the efforts of the Canton Township police responsible for the investigation and prosecution of the individuals who provided the Fentanyl that ultimately killed her son.

Young praised the efforts of the officers who tracked down Eric Casey Rose and Megan Elizabeth Hicks and charged them with delivery of a controlled substance causing death, a felony punishable by up to life imprisonment.

Young said her son had faced a long battle with drug addiction, including heroin before his death Dec. 13, 2015. Before succumbing to drugs, Kocoloski was a commendable student and person, his mother said. In 2000, prior to his drug involvement, he was captain of both the basketball and football teams at Plymouth Salem High School. After graduation, he went on to play four years of football at Albion College where he was also nominated as team captain and was voted MVP (Most Valuable Player) during his senior year. He maintained a 3.5 grade point average during his college years, his mother said.

After college, he became addicted to drugs and last year battled that addiction to heroin with stints in a re-hab facility. While out of the support system, he arranged to obtain heroin from a source he had used several times in the past. He returned to his Canton Township residence and overdosed on the drug sometime during the night Dec. 12, 2015.

His mother found him unconscious the next morning and immediately called 911. Canton police and fire personnel responded to the home but could not revive Kocoloski who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police officers on site noted evidence of drug use and an autopsy by the officer of the Wayne County Medical Examiner confirmed that the cause of Kocoloski's death was a Fentanyl overdose.

Canton police officers began an investigation into the incident and were able to retrace his steps to the deadly drug transaction, identifying the two suspects. Investigators submitted the evidence to the office of the Wayne County Prosecutor for a warrant recommendation.

The warrant was approved and Rose, 30 and Hicks, 25, both of Livonia were each charged with one felony count of delivering the controlled substance.

Eric Rose

Megan Hicks

Rose and Hicks each pleaded guilty to the charges in Wayne County Third Circuit Court.

Rose was sentenced to a prison term of 42 months minimum/15 years maximum, and Hicks was sentenced to 18 months minimum/15 years maximum.

Kocoloski's mother praised the Canton Police Department and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for their efforts in taking these two suspects off the street.

According to a prepared statement from the police department, Young acknowledges her son's addiction, and its all-consuming effects and wants to pass along to the public that this disease does not discriminate.

She said she cannot stress enough her message of never starting or experimenting with opiates of any kind-as she watched her son pay the ultimate price with his life.

School officials discuss poor test scores

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) results in the Van Buren Public Schools district received scores below state averages for students, prompting discussion at the meeting of the board of education members recently.

District Director of Instruction Jeff Moore told the board members that the results "shows you we still have some work to do." Moore presented the scores and test results to the board members.

Moore said that while district students scored below the state averages, the test results were "just a snapshot of information."

"We want to be honest about this information and use the numbers for what they are," Moore said.

He compared the poverty levels with the subject proficiency levels throughout Wayne County schools but admitted that even with the increased number of students receiving free and reduced-cost lunches in the district, students are still underperforming when compared to others with the same demographics.

Savage Elementary showed the highest scores of the four elementary schools with 59.21 percent proficiency in third grade math over a state average of 45.2 percent. Moore explained that this did not separate the gifted and talented students' scores, which would impact the percentages..

In third grade math, Edgemont students achieved a 17.89 percent score while at Rawsonville students were 16.47 percent proficient and at Tyler, student scored 28.95 percent proficiency. Each of the scores indicated a lower proficiency level than scores last year at the same schools.

Moore said that the poor English Language Arts proficiency in the third grade had implications with the new reading bill approved in the state Legislature. Effective with the 2019-20 school year, third grade students who do not meet reading standards will be retained in third grade under the new state rules.

Moore said educational and sociological studies show that students who cannot read by the third grade are most likely not to graduate from high school and have a stronger chance of incarceration in the prison system.

Trustee Sherry Frazier clasped her hands in frustration, saying, "We won't get over this hump!"

Moore told the board trustees that school officials were adopting several curriculum improvements and researching teaching methods from other school districts in an effort to improve efficacy in Van Buren schools.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 5, 2017 for the following:

PRINTING OF THE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at www.canton-mi.org, or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 12/15/2016 EC121516-1410 2.5 x 2.051

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO
PURCHASING ORDINANCE: CHAPTER 39

On November 28, 2016, the City Council of the City of Romulus, approved amendments to the City Purchasing Ordinance, which in summary provides as follows:

- Provision for local preferences to vendors who have a facility located in the City of Romulus were added to the Ordinance;
- Provisions to establish minimum insurance requirements for City vendors were added to the Ordinance;
- The threshold requirements for purchase of various amounts were clarified and some of the procedures for reviewing bids and for emergency purchases were clarified;
- The entire Ordinance is in file with the City Clerk, which can be reviewed or obtained by making a request to the City Clerk's office.

ADOPTED, APPROVED AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Romulus this 28th day of November, 2016.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Ordinance as passed by the City Council of the City of Romulus at a regular Council Meeting held in the City Council Room in said City on the 28th day of November, 2016.

I further certify that the foregoing was published in The Eagle (Associated Newspapers), a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Romulus, on the 15th day of December, 2016.

ELLEN L. CRAIG-BRAGG, CMC, City Clerk

Within forty-five (45) days after publication of any ordinance duly passed by the Council, a petition may be presented to the Council protesting against such ordinance continuing in effect. Said petition shall contain the text of such ordinance and shall be signed by not less than six percent (6%) of the registered electors registered at the last preceding election at which a Mayor of the City was elected. Said ordinance shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from operation and the Council shall immediately reconsider such ordinance.

Introduction: 11-14-16
Second Reading: 11-28-16
Publication: 12-15-16

RM121516-0120 2.5 x 4.289

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
LEGAL NOTICE
2016 WINTER TAXES

Winter Taxes are due December 1, 2016 and payable through February 14, 2017 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH. Payments may be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. Township offices will be closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26. The Treasurer's Office ONLY will remain open on Friday, December 30 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for year end tax payments. After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hour WHITE DROP BOX located along the circular drive.

Mark Clinton
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth
9955 Haggerty Road
Plymouth MI 48170

Publish Thursday, December 15, 2016 PT121516-0098 2.5 x 2.195

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Kerreen Conley, Human Resources Manager, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Kerreen Conley, Human Resources Manager, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 12/15/2016 EC121516-1409 2.5 x 4.72

Wayne - Westland

New $3 million project OK'd in Wayne

A new "state of the art" storage facility will be constructed in Wayne on a 3.2 acre parcel of city-owned land just east of the current police station on Michigan Avenue.

The project, estimated by Community Development Director Lori Gouin to cost in excess of $3 million, was unanimously approved by members of the city council at their meeting Dec. 6.

The project, to be built and operated by Tim Judge, will be similar to a new facility in Plymouth on Ann Arbor Road, Gouin said. The facility was described to the council members as two-stories with the use of porcelain, limestone and brick in the architectural design. Gouin said the storage building would be climate controlled and include a total of 95,000 square feet, 70,000 of which would be rental space. She added that the building would offer UPS and post office boxes on site available to residents.

Gouin said that some approval from the city zoning and planning commissions would still be necessary to facilitate the project with the vacating of an alleyway and street.

> *In addition, he is looking at $75,000 in fees and a larger investment if he is not able to tap into the city storm drains as required by Wayne County.*

"The units will be individually alarmed and this is a $3 million investment for Mr. Judge," she told the members of the council. "In addition, he is looking at $75,000 in fees and a larger investment if he is not able to tap into the city storm drains as required by Wayne County."

Gouin said that this project puts "a significant amount of land back on the tax rolls and that estimated taxes on the $2.8 million project as presented would be $101,000 per year.

"And, the land is in the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) district, which means $33,416 a year into the DDA fund which is much need to make improvements," she said.

The project will provide from 50 to 75 jobs during construction and three jobs when operational.

Judge told the council members that he takes pride in his businesses and what he does and intends to "give back to the community."

Suspect sought in multiple city robberies

A single suspect is thought to be responsible for several store robberies in the Westland area during the past weeks.

According to Westland police, they are seeking a man involved in three armed robberies that took place Dec. 5. The first hold up took place at Rite Aid at 35363 Ford Road following by a robbery at a Family Dollar store at 31296 Michigan Ave. and another robbery at the Family Dollar store at 1963 South Wayne Road. The three incidents took place, police said, within two hours.

Investigators believe the same suspect may have robbed the same Family Dollar store on Nov. 27. He is believed to have committed similar crimes in neighboring communities, police said.

Witnesses have described the suspect as a man in his 40s, about 5-feet, 8-inches to 5-feet, 10-inches tall, weighing about 180 pounds. The suspect was wearing a black coat, tan pants and a white hat at the time of the first robbery at the Family Dollar store.

Police have asked anyone with information about the man or the incidents to contact the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

Stipend

FROM PAGE 1

and came before you."

"We earned this. Our contract stated you would pay 100 percent," he said. "I am appalled people are going to support this."

Also voicing strong disagreement with the plan was Councilman Chris Sanders.

"The Other Paid Employee Benefits (OPEB) has been funding our city. We have been taking the money from retirees to support the city. We need to save money, but not on the backs of retirees. This is disgusting," Sanders said.

Councilman John Rhaesa responded loudly, "You're disgusting," prompting Rowe to request decorum at the meeting.

The motion was approved with yes votes from Rowe, Rhaesa, Anthony Miller and Tom Porter. Sanders, Ryan Gabriel and Richard Sutton cast the opposing votes.

> *We earned this. Our contract stated you would pay 100 percent. I am appalled people are going to support this.*

Despite Rowe's attempts to quell comments on the matter, retirees continued to criticize the action during the audience comment portion of the agenda. Many retirees spoke about the effect of the action and the violation of their contractual agreements with the city.

Joe Cadillac, a 26-year employee, told the officials that their action was due to poor foresight and that it was a disgrace. He reminded them that former Tigers Pitcher Denny McClain went to prison for spending the retirement money of employees at his meat packing plant.

In a statement following the meeting, Rhaesa accused Sanders of using the issue for political gain and said that Sanders had been in favor even deeper cuts at study sessions and public hearings.

Sanders denied those claims and said that his remarks at those sessions were a criticism of what he has interpreted as the goal of the city to eliminate health care for retirees altogether.

"What I said was, 'If your intent is to totally eliminate retiree health care, rip the Band-Aid off, but I can't support that.'"

Rhaesa called Sanders "two-faced" and claimed he was "pandering to the room full of retirees."

Sanders said Rhaesa had deliberately misquoted and mischaracterized his comments. He said that Rhaesa is attempting to misrepresent his statements in an attempt to defend the cuts which Sanders said he consistently opposed both publicly and privately.

"This city robbed retirees of money set aside to pay for their health care. As I said at the meeting, I find this action absolutely despicable."

Classified

01. Obituaries	32. Help Wanted Drivers	55. Estate Sales	67. Garden Plant / Supplies	89. Apartments for Rent	103. Business Property for Sale	116. Antique & Classic Cars
02. In Memoriam	33. Child Care	56. Flea Markets	68. Garden / Produce	90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent	104. Farms & Acreage for Sale	117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
03. Cards of Thanks	34. Specialized Services	57. Antiques	70. Masonry / Brickwork	92. Business Places for Rent	105. Mobile Homes for Sale	118. Freebies
04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots	35. Situations Wanted	58. Garage and Yard Sales	72. Cleaning Services	93. Banquet Halls	106. Houses for Sale	119. Auto Repairs
05. Personals/Announcements	40. Business Opportunity	59. Auctions	73. Musical Merchandise	94. Farm Land for Rent	107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale	120. Motorcycles
06. Legal Notices	42. Health and Fitness	60. Moving Sales	74. Sporting Goods	95. Real Estate	108. Lake and Resort	121. Autos Wanted
07. Attorneys	43. Money to Loan	61. Misc. Items	75. Boats / Accessories	96. Houses for Rent	109. Income Property	
08. Entertainment	44. Music/Art Lessons	62. Building Supplies	76. Remodeling & Renovations	97. Cottages for Rent	110. Lots for Sale	
09. Lost & Found	45. Adult Care	63. Business and OfficeEquipment	77. Recreation Vehicles	98. Manufactured/Mobile Homes	111. Out of State Property	
10. Coming Events	46. Private Schools/Instruction	64. Lawn & Garden Supplies	78. Hunting / Fishing	99. Flats for Rent	112. Commercial Lease	
30. Help Wanted	47. Riding/Horses/Stables	65. Tree Service	82. Wanted to Buy	100. Will Share	113. Real Estate Wanted	
31. Help Wanted Sales	50. Pets & Supplies	66. Landscape / Nurseries	87. Room for Rent	101. Wanted to Rent	114. Auto Accessories	
	54. Rummage Sales		88. Duplexes for Rent	102. Storage	115. Autos for Sale	

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Inkster - Romulus

Holiday spirit

Basketball Legends of Inkster help 100 families at Christmas

One hundred families in Inkster will have a brighter holiday again this year, thanks to the efforts of the Basketball Legends of Inkster.

President and Director of Basketball Legends of Inkster Fred Smiley and a large group of volunteers helped package and organize food baskets, toys and gifts for the families, all funded by donations and the annual Christmas raffle the Basketball Legends organize. Help came, too, from the Kroger store in Dearborn Heights and Meijer, where volunteers shopped for goods for the families, Smiley said.

Winners this year in the annual Christmas raffle were announced last week, just before the giveaway took place.

Daniel Poncy won 10th prize which was dinner for two at Red Lobster; Yolanda Holmes won dinner for two at They Say restaurant; Ken Smith won dinner for two at Urban Soul restaurant and R.L Harris won a case of Choice sirloin steaks, which was seventh prize.

Sixth prize, a Wilson golf bag and a dozen golf balls went to Eddie Hartman while fifth prize was awarded to Mindoro Perdue who won a one-day weekend stay at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus. Fourth prize went to Jim White who won a one-day weekend stay at the Sheraton Hotel in Romulus.

Third prize, a party for 10 at the Wayne Bowl, went to Percel Singleton and second prize, a party blast for 15 at the Romulus Athletic Center, went to Robin Tuberville.

First prize this year, a 24-inch flat screen television went to Anthony McNeil.

The grand prize, two tickets to see Lebron James and the World Champion Cleveland Cavaliers vs the Detroit Pistons went to Carl Sanders.

Bonus prizes were awarded to Irene Franklin, who received an official NBA Tablet and a Cleveland Cavaliers mug; Danielle Wright who won a Tristan Thompson autographed basketball and mug and Kay Borges who won a World Champion Cleveland Cavaliers shirt, hat and bag.

Smiley offered his gratitude to all those who donated the prizes, including: George Blaha, piston tickets; Tim Nash, 24-inch flat screen TV; Wayne Bowl; Romulus Athletic Center; Don Kerr, Sheraton Hotel; Crystal Hudson, Marriott Hotel; State Farm -Clayton Ness; Gino, Fairway Meats; John Thompson, Urban Soul Restaurant; Terry Payne, They Say Restaurant and Lisa, Red Lobster in Dearborn.

The Cleveland Cavaliers donated all the bonus prizes.

Smiley said the group owed a special thanks to the Sheraton for providing the facility for the prize drawings and to all who participated in the event.

All the proceeds from the raffle were used for the Basketball Legends of Inkster Christmas Giveaway, Smiley said.

Smiley also said he wanted to especially thank Lawrence Simmons of Low 14 Films for a video of the actual raffle drawing.

Dennis Spencer and Clint Barnett were among the many volunteers from the Basketball Legends of Inkster who helped 100 families with groceries and gifts for the Christmas holiday during the annual giveaway this month. Volunteers from Kroger in Dearborn Heights helped package food and volunteers shopped at Meijer for the families.

Volunteers get ready to shop for families at Meijer along with Basketball Legends of Inkster Director Fred Smiley and shopping organizer Larry Spencer.

Say Their Names will honor veterans Saturday

Romulus Memorial Cemetery will be part of the national Say Their Names project this Saturday.

The event is part of the national non-profit Wreaths Across America(WAA) project and this is the first year that the Romulus cemetery will be joining more than 1,000 participating locations across the country on Saturday to "Say Their Names."

Romulus volunteers will place remembrance wreaths on the headstones of veterans interred there and announce the names of all these local heroes to ensure that the individuals who served to protect the freedoms of America are not, and never will be, forgotten. This local initiative is being organized by the Romulus Veterans Outreach Committee and Romulus VFW Post #9568.

"Without the thousands of local volunteers across the country who give their time and energy to support the mission, Wreaths Across America would not exist," said Karen Worcester, WAA executive director. "All our supporters understand the value of remembering the fallen, honoring those who currently serve, and the need to teach the next generation about the sacrifices made for our freedom."

National Wreaths Across America Day is a free community event open to all people. The local event will begin at 10 a.m. Dec. 17 with a ceremony and laying wreaths shortly after.

The Romulus Memorial Cemetery was established in 1832. More than 250 veterans are buried there including, 25 Civil War Veterans, and a Medal of Honor recipient of the Spanish American War.

For more information on how to get involved, call (734) 955-8964.

Since 1992, WAA founder Morrill Worcester has always asked volunteers placing remembrance wreaths to take time to read the name on the headstone aloud. During the escort of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery last December, Worcester stated, "A person dies twice: the first time, when they stop breathing, and a second time, when someone says their name for the last time."

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Calendar of events

Coffee With Kurt tomorrow

Kurt Heise will host his first monthly "Coffee with Kurt" as Plymouth Township Supervisor from 8-9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Dec. 16, at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road.

Coffee and breakfast snacks will be provided.

"As state representative for six years, my monthly coffees became a tradition in the Plymouth community," said Heise. "I want to build on that success and make sure our taxpayers have a chance to know what's going on at Township Hall in an informal setting."

Newly-elected Township Clerk Jerry Vorva and Treasurer Mark Clinton have also been invited to attend. Future coffees will also take place at township facilities, and at coffee shops and restaurants in the Plymouth community.

Congregation meets Sunday

Redeemer Lutheran Church offers worship services at 11 a.m. Sunday at Tyler Elementary School, 42200 Tyler Road in Belleville.

For more information call (734)740-4230 or access www.redeemerlutheranchurch-mi.com.

Person of the Year sought

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Romulus Person of the Year.

Completed forms, available at the chamber website, must be returned to the chamber office by 4 p.m. Dec. 16. The office is located at 11189 Shook Road, St. 200, Romulus, Mi 48174.

Later nominations will not be considered.

A committee will review the nominations and make the selection of the winning candidate. This is the 32nd year for the award in the city.

More information is available at (734) 893-0694 or admin@romuluschamber.org.

Interactive Story Time under way

The Romulus Public Library offers interactive Parent/Child Story Time for children 4 and younger and parents at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday. The program is free and no registration is required. Story time helps prepare children for success in school and beyond and is presented in partnership with the Guidance Center.

For more information, contact the library at (734) 942-7589 or visit www.romulus.lib.mi.us. The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

Winter clothing collected

Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) is looking for community members to donate new, warm winter items for the Hats for the Homeless drive which will continue through the month of December.

Donors are asked to drop off new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, blankets, and socks at Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, during business hours 7:45 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday and from 7:45 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. on Friday. All adult and children sizes are welcome.

Plymouth Yoga Room (474 Forest, Plymouth,) will also be collecting donations through the end of December.

For more information, call Randi Williams at (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or e-mail randi.williams@pcuw.org.

Candy Cane contest begins

The Romulus Public Library is now accepting entries in the Candy Cane Counting Contest.

Entries will be accepted through Dec. 30 from those 18 and younger who must guess the number of candy canes in the jar. There will be one winner who guesses the total number of canes in the jar. In case of a tie, the library staff will choose a random winner to be announced Jan. 2.

The library is located as 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus. For more information call (734) 942-7589 or visit www.romulus.lib.mi.us.

Parent Child Storytimes set

Interactive Storytime for parents and children is planned for 10:30 a.m. Dec. 21 at the Romulus Library for parents and children 4 and younger.

There will also be activities for parents and children at the free event.

This is a partnership with the Guidance Center. No pre-registration is necessary.

The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road in Romulus. For more information call (734) 942-7589 or visit www.romulus.lib.mi.us.

Sounds of the Season planned

A holiday concert, Sounds of the Season, is planned at 8 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Western Campus of the Wayne County Community College District, 9555 Haggerty Road in Belleville.

The concert will feature the Michigan Philharmonic and special guests the Belleville High School Choir and is free and open to the public, although tickets are required.

To register and obtain free tickets, call (734) 374-3200 or access www.wcccd.edu.

The concert is sponsored by the college School of Continuing Education and Worksforce Development.

Christmas Tea is served

The Canton Historical Society members will host their 4th Annual Christmas Tea at the Bartlett-Travis House, one of the oldest homes in the Canton community, The home will be decorated for the holidays in Christmas finery of the 1900s.

The tea will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17. Participants can take a step back in time as they enjoy a holiday tea in the home, located in Preservation Park at 500 N. Ridge Road in Canton. Guests will enjoy an assortment of teas, mini-quiches, sandwiches and desserts.

Musical entertainment will be provided by harpist Laurel Federbush. Tickets are priced at $25 per person and available at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Seating is limited.

For more information, visit www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org or call (734) 397-3048.

Christmas Concert planned

The Belleville Community Band will perform a Christmas Concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17.

The concert will take place at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. in Belleville.

Ice

FROM PAGE 1

Snow. Seasoned professionals will explain the gear, help guests suit up and set them off on the cross-country skiing trail in Kellogg Park," he said. "If kids find they like it, it can lead to a real interest in skiing for them."

The Ice Playground interactive area sponsored by Lou LaRiche is full of games carved out of ice and has plenty of opportunity for pictures while the kids play with the ice, Geitzen said.

The EG Nicks Party Lot on Forest Avenue will have cold beer, drink specials and live music. The Party Lot has become the place to be for the evening crowd. There will be live entertainment from Big Ray and the Motor City Kings on Friday, Jan. 6, and Fifty Amp Fuse on Saturday, Jan. 7.

"But," Geitzen said with a smile, "the most exciting event is always the chain saw competition when we give each carver a block of ice, a chain saw, one other tool and have the audience tell them what they will carve.

"It's extremely high energy and kids love it," he said.

For more information, visit www.plymouthicefestival.com or follow on social media at @PlymouthIce (Twitter) and on Facebook.

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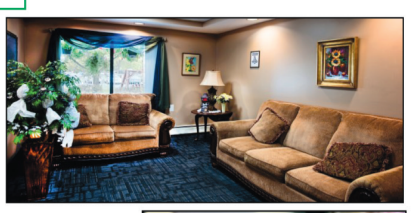

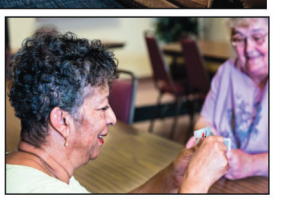

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